

Bradfield File

(Two old letters, circa 1900)



Ind. State Normal.

TERRE HAUTE,
IND.
JUL 10 1030 AM '01



Mr. Wilson H. Bradfield,
Mecca,

"Parke Co."

Indian

Have they begun on the new school
house yet? who is going to build it?
Did they settle their trouble at the
city plant? Bessie out for about
to come down and help him but he
hadn't heard from him yet. U B.

688 N. 6th. St.

Terre Haute, Ind.

July 9, 1901.

W. H. Bradfield,

Mecca, Ind.

Dear Brother; I guess I
can take time to write you a few
lines. We have more work with
our two subjects this term than
I had with five last term. At
least I put in more time on them.
But I have to take time for ex-
ercise and do that in playing
tennis or that is the way I have
spent about an hour and a half
for the last two evenings. Draw-

ing maps is² what takes so much time this term. We are now drawing the United States and it will take I suspect about forty hours. I just commenced on it yesterday evening. I went out to Bernies Friday and stayed until Sunday evening and he brought me to Seelyville and I came in from there on thest car. They were all well. Bernie is plowing^{his} corn the third time. It looks well. Much better than the corn did up around home. But I suppose they have gotten to plow their corn by this time. Mr. Jeffers intended to commence putting up hay yesterday and Bernie wanted to help him with one hand and he hired a hand Sunday. Bernie will not

get to put up hay until next week.

They had a festival at Oak Hill Saturday night. There was quite a crowd out and we had a fine time. Late supper with Bertha Jackson of Riley. Edgar had Winnie there. She is staying out at her grandfather's. I guess she will not stay in T. H. much but she is coming up about next week to stay a few days. I told her that you wanted to see her while she was in the city and she said alright. She said she would let me know when she came up and I could write and tell you and you could come down. Edgar is pretty bad struck on her. I heard you was up at Rockville

the "Fourth" and looking for me.
 I didn't go up. None of the boys
 wanted to go and it was so
 hot and raining in the morning.
 I stayed at my room most of
 that forenoon and then after
 noon I went up stayed with
 Mr. Jack until supper time.
 After supper Jack and Edgar
 and I went over across the river
 for a walk and then back over
 on Main street and stayed
 until about nine and then
 back to our room again.
 It was a rather dull "Fourth".
 here, except the shooting of sky-
 rockets, firecrackers, torpedos and
 everything else that would make
 a noise from 5 a.m. to until
 mid night. Edgar and Jack
 and I talked of going over to

Brazil that night for a car ride
but concluded to postpone it.
The last three or four days have
been very pleasant. I hope it
will remain this way but the
farmers are beginning to need
rain pretty badly, but they
may not get as much as they
need from now on.

Bennie said for me to write
to you and see if you could
pay me the rest you owe me
now for he wants to sell his
hogs if he can before he lets
me have any more money. I
got \$1,000 of him the first of the
term but you know that the
first week is when it takes the
most money, for library fees,
books, room rent, board and etc
so by the end of this week I will

6.
not have much left. So if you
can spare me the money I would
like to have it. I will have to
send the Educator-Journal $\$1.00$
this week if I can.

I got a letter from Pa when I
came home from Bernies. I guess
it came Saturday. I do not know
when I will get to come up home
I will have to work most of the
Saturdays this term. I am not
so lonesome as I was last week.
This is my last sheet of paper so
I guess I will have to stop. You
must be sure and write often
for I am rather lonesome and
like to get letters. I will take
this down to the drug store and
mail it now it is 9:10 P.M.
Write soon.
Your Brother
Vernon Bradfield.

Rockville, Indiana.

October 18, 1900.

Mr. W. H. Bradfield,

Riley, Ind.

Dear Brother and
the rest, - We recieved your most
welcome letter to day. Were glad
to hear that you were well but
very sorry indeed to hear of
the death of Poor old "Doc". It
seems to me that a very dear
friend has gone to his reward,
but what is his reward for
all the work that he has done
for others, simply to mingle
with the dust to become a
brother to the insensible rock
to become a part of the soil he
has so often helped to plow.
Alas! such is the fate of all poor
animals but a much better
fate than thousands of poor
mortals shall have to meet.
Be honor to his remains and

accept our sympathies in this
your great sorrow.

But this letter shall be
devoted more especially to your
request for us to vote for Bryan.
I am sure that you are ignorant
of the inevitable fate that would
surely follow the election of Bryan
or you certainly would not ask
any one to vote for him. But
then it isn't possible that you
do not know how fortunate it
was for our countryman that Wm.
McKinley was elected four years
ago. You haven't forgotten the
prophecies of Mr. Bryan in '96.
Have they been fulfilled? You know
they haven't. He said, "Elect McKinley
and we would have scarce money
and scarce money made hard
times and etc". You know the
rest of the calamities that he
said would surely befall us.
But not one of these predictions
has been fulfilled. Instead

the American working men were never steadier employed or at more remunerative wages. Our country is loaning millions of dollars of money and at a lower rate of interest. Our commerce both foreign and domestic has increased millions of dollars. In fact the whole business interest of our country is now enjoying the greatest prosperity it has ever known. These things can not be denied. Our main question should be settled now for all time. The 16 to 1 issue should be buried so deep this fall by the vote of the American workman that it would never be heard of again. And Bryan's false prophecies of '96 should at least greatly shake your confidence in him. You know that he told us in '96 that if we voted for the gold standard that we would have the hardest times we ever knew. He said that

that this was as sure as the law of gravitation. The results need no comment. They argue stronger in favor of the reelection of McKinley than any arguments that we could make. That high sounding phrase of his Chicago speech in '96 which nominated him, about the crown of thorns being pressed down upon the brow of labor and about the working man about to be crucified on a cross of gold show the emptiness of all his speeches. It is true that the prices of manufactured articles as well as the products of the farm and the price of labor, have advanced but this is just what you argued in favor of four years ago. You can not be so inconsistent as to expect the prices of what you produce to advance while the prices of all you buy to decline.

It is true that some things have advanced so much on account of the trusts. We acknowledge that there are some trusts that are a bad thing and the Republican platform made provision to extinguish them but in a sensible and reasonable way.

But to enumerate all the rational and consistent reasons why you should vote for McKinley and against Bryan would take volume so I will say a few things about that humbug and phantom issue of "Imperialism" which Bryan is trying to hide the 16-1 issue behind. The Republican party had its birth upon the ruins of a republic and would give their lives for its protection and preservation.

Six thousand years of history of the Aryan race which we represent in part to day has traced it from a few thousand people in the middle of Asia until it has

-conquered all Europe and the
 Americas. The law of this
 race has been expansion. First
 they Conquered Persia. Then Greece
 then Rome next central Europe
 next England. Must they stop
 there? No they came and settled
 America. Conquered the savage tribes
 that inhabited this territory pushed
 them to a reservation in the western
 part of our country. Was those Puritan
 Imperialists. Of course you would
 say no. Was Jefferson an Imper-
 alist when he bought La. and
 governed the people then living
 there without their consent? No
 you will say. Were we Imperialists
 when we bought Alaska or purchased
 and annexed ~~the~~ California? Of
 course you will answer No. And
 no more are we imperialists by
 purchasing and governing the Phill.
 islands. It is the highest duty
 of the race to civilize and im-
 prove all uncivilized - and un-

improved territory. It is a responsibility that is resting upon the race. How can they do this before they first subdue the uncivilized people of this territory. You know that we can not. The population of the world in a comparatively short time will demand the products of the world to supply the necessities of life so it is our sacred duty to improve all the territory God gave us that it may do this.

And then let me show you the inconsistencies of young Billie Bryan on this question. He says that if elected he will give the Philippines their liberties and insure them a stable government and protection from foreign governments. Now look here there are over 400 islands and 25,900,000 inhabitants. A very small per. cent. of these people are civilized some rest are mestizos

and are not more than half civilized many of them in fact the majority are savages living in tribes speaking as many different dialects as there are tribes. Now how is Bryan going to insure these people a stable government. Is it this what McKinley intends doing but as our territory.

He is not going in the business of giving some other country a good government.

They both intend doing the same thing. Only we aim to do it in a consistent way.

You see if McKinley does this it will be Imperialism but if Bryan does it it will be patriotism?

You certainly can not vote for a party that will hide behind such a humbug paramount? issue as

this. Their fear of coming out under the banner of the real issue that they are working for should be enough in its self to cause you to stop and consider if you are doing the right thing for by voting for this false prophet of the nineteenth century you had better hold on to a good thing while you have it. The Republican Party does not like to go along building the fence that the Democrats have torn down and leaving it to be contracted by Democratic administration.

But the American people do not aim to be thrown out of work for the next four years they are going to carry the same burden ^{and it} ~~and it~~ full, with them to work every morning the

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just four years ago ^{they} have
been doing for they are
going to reflect Wm.
McKinley the man who
opened the mills and shops
to the working men instead
of the mine to the silver mine
owners.

And if you vote to your
interest you will be one
of the great majority of
men who are going to
do this.

Well I will close on this subject.
I can not come to Terre
Haute Sat. as we have our
institute that day. I would
like to come and hear Mr.
Ce - but can't. I have
been but to one speaking this
fall. I am wasting but
very little of my time on
politics. In fact not so
much as I would like to

or would under different circumstances.

I am getting along fine with my school. I have twenty five scholars.

I went to Newport last Saturday and came home Sunday evening. Well Pa will finish this to morrow, I must go to bed.

Oct. 21st Sunday, and dinner over Vernon and I went to meeting to day. Pa Albin says to me, Pa is going to the Parks here. Chilling and coughs pretty badly. It is trying to get some, tomorrow I would finish this the next day after he wrote. But I did not have time. I helped Dan fence a lot for the day. I was there 2 days. A Saturday Dan left for me and I went to Catlin and got me 300 lbs of coal. It was half past one when we got home for dinner. Dan was finished digging his

100 S. 8TH STREET
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47801

Two letters written by Mr. V. V. Bradfield in 1900 to his brother
Mrs. V. V. Bradfield is still living--at 1528 South 10th Street, T. H.

The letters belong to a son, Wayne T. Bradfield, 626 South 6th Street, City
We have permission to keep them for the museum if we want them. We have
permission to copy them and return them if we have use for the contents but
not the actual letters.

If we have no use for them, they are to be returned to Mr. Wayne T. Bradfield.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED